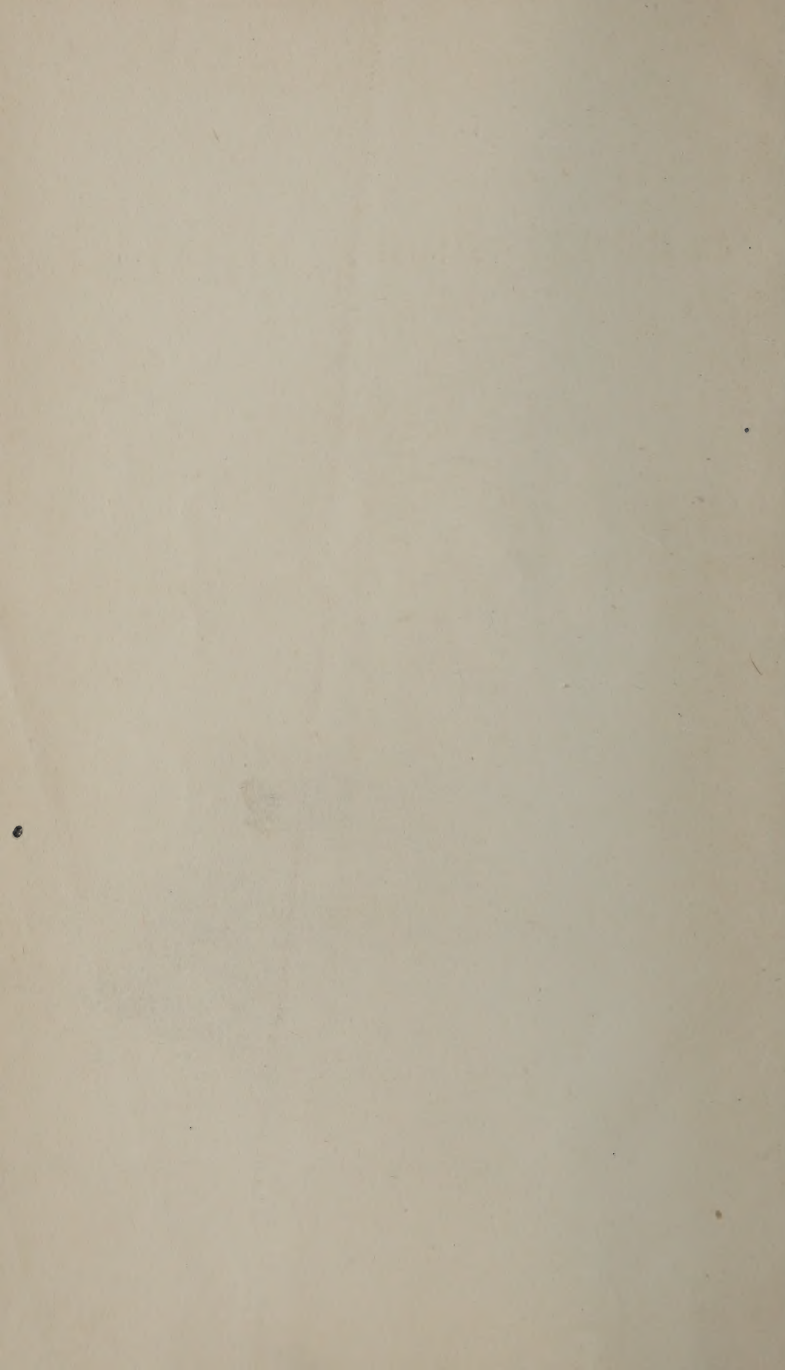




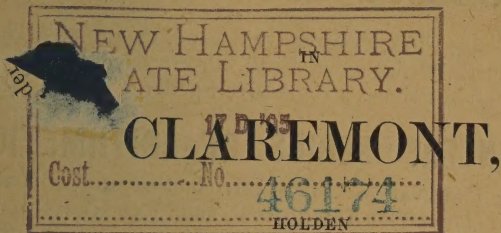
The Rumford Press
BINDERS.



352-07421
C54
1864-84
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Annual Town Meeting;



March 8th and 9th, 1864;

TOGETHER WITH THE

FINANCIAL REPORT,

AND THE

SCHOOL REPORTS.

PRESS OF THE CLAREMONT MANUFACTURING COMPANY,

E. L. GODDARD, AGENT.

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17 D '95
PROCEEDINGS.

Cost.....

At a legal Town Meeting, duly notified and held at Claremont, on Tuesday, the eighth of March, A. D. 1864, the following officers were chosen :

Moderator.

CHARLES M. BINGHAM.

Town Clerk.

THOMAS R. GOWDEY.

Selectmen.

EDWIN W. TOLLES,
STEPHEN F. ROSSITER,
WILLIAM CLARK.

Representatives.

ARNOLD BRIGGS,
IRA COLBY jr.,
JAMES P. BREWER,
ALFRED TRACY.

Superintending School Committee.

WARREN F. EVANS.

Town Treasurer.

CHARLES M. BINGHAM.

Collector of Taxes.

FRANKLIN NORTON.

Constables.

Alfred Burrill,
Walter H. Smith,

Samuel C. Bailey,
Henry L. Hubbard,
Ormond D. Blood,
William B. Henry,
Edmund Neal.

Fence Viewers.

Phillemon Tolles,
Josiah Wilson,
John F. Cossitt.

Hog Reeves.

Albro Blodgett,
Arthur Chase,
Edwin Watson,
Eugene Barnes,
Charles Carey.

Pound Keeper.

Phillemon Tolles.

Surveyors of Wood.

William W. King,
W. B. Morse,
Sumner Putnam,
James Blodgett,
James Goodwin,
Joseph W. Osgood,
A. M. Hannaford,
O. D. Blood,

Daniel J. Livingston,
Daniel Burbee,
M. R. Emerson.

Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Silas E. Noyes.

Sealer of Leather.

R. W. Farwell.

Highway Surveyors.

John F. Cossitt,
W. H. Farwell,
Philander Wallingford,
Albert Dean,
Benj. P. Walker,
John F. Jones,
Solomon Putnam,
Tracy Cowles,
Josiah Wilson,
Freeman S. Chellis,
James P. Upham,
Francis Whitcomb,
Joel G. Davis,

Thomas W. Alden,
John Ayer,
Abial White,
James F. Bartlett,
Winthrop Sargent,
W. P. Bartlett,
Homer E. Grannis,
Tolmon E. Fifield,
George Whitcomb,
Charles Ball,
Alonzo Thomas
Francis Locke,
Frederick Clement.

Surveyors of Lumber.

Calvin Dunklee,
William Clark,
James Goodwin,
William D. Morgan.

Auditors.

James Goodwin,
Sam'l C. Bailey,
E. L. Goddard.

VOTES FOR STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS.

For Governor.

Joseph A. Gilmore,	640
Edward W. Harrington,	205

For Rail Road Commissioner.

Person C. Cheney,	641
Orsino A. J. Vaughan,	203

For Councillor.

Charles H. Eastman,	635
Ansel Glover,	203

For Senator.

Amos F. Fiske,	640
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Horace Metcalf,	202
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For County Treasurer.

Adolphus Hall,	641
Edmund Wheeler,	204

For Register of Deeds.

Henry D. Foster,	641
Eleazer C. Converse,	204

For County Commissioner.

Edward Freeman, jr.	643
William C. True,	199

APPOINTMENTS BY THE SELECTMEN.

Chief Engineer.

Moses R. Emerson.

Assistants.

Walter H. Smith,

H. C. Cowles,
B. P. Gilman,
Geo. H. Stowell.

Voted, To raise the amount of money required by law for support of schools.

Voted, To raise fifteen hundred dollars for the support of highways and bridges—to be paid in labor.

Voted, To raise the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars for incidental expenses of the town the present year.

Voted, To divide the school money by paying fifty dollars to each district, and the remainder by the scholar.

Voted, To raise one hundred and fifty dollars to pay for street lights.

Voted, To raise five thousand dollars to pay the debts of the town.

Voted, That the Selectmen be authorized to borrow on the credit of the town a sum not to exceed six thousand dollars, to aid the families of volunteers and drafted men.

Voted, To pay Engine Men the same as they were paid the last year.

Voted, To adopt Chapter 2721 of the Pamphlet Laws.

Voted, That the Selectmen be authorized to repair the Town House, the expense not to exceed five hundred dollars.

Voted, To pass over the 16th article, in regard to tolling bells at funerals and deaths.

Voted, That the Selectmen be instructed to borrow on the credit of the town six thousand dollars, for the purpose of purchasing a lot and building a suitable building for a High School.

Voted, That a committee of five be appointed to select some suitable lot on which to erect a suitable building for a High School, and make a report of their doings on the first Tuesday of May next. Appointed E. L. Goddard, Russell Jarvis, A. F. Snow, O. J. Brown and C. M. Bingham, Committee for the above purpose.

Voted, That the Selectmen be a Committee to designate the families of Volunteers and drafted men who are entitled to State aid.

Voted, To build a Reservoir at some suitable point west of the Bridge, near Putnam & Kimball's Store, to be located by the board of Engineers.

Voted, To adjourn to the first Tuesday in May, at one o'clock in the afternoon.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 3, 1864.

The Auditors of the Town beg leave respectfully to submit the following REPORT:—

The total valuation, including Polls, as assessed April 1, 1863, is \$2,066,594 00.

The rate of taxation the present year is 73c. on \$100 00 in money, and 9c. in labor on highways.

The amount of taxes assessed, as follows, viz:

For State Tax,	4303 80	
County Tax,	2504 32	
Schooling as required by Law,	3188 00	
Legal Expenses of Town by vote,	2500 00	
To pay Debts of Town,	2000 00	
Add about 4 7-100 per cent,	590 59	
		\$15 086 71
School House Tax in District No. 17,		1 306 56

RECEIPTS.

Or amount paid into Treasury, for year ending March 3, 1864.

Balance in Treasury, March 7, 1863,	364 53
State R. R. tax 1858,	55 77
“ “ 1862,	39 49
“ Literary Fund,	252 72
“ Soldiers Aid, Sept 4,	6,769 35
County, on Pauper acct. Sept. 9, 1863,	646 91
“ “ “ Feb. 1, 1864,	591 90
Circus License,	30 00
State, as State Bounties,	2,200 00
W. E. Tutherly, as fees for enlisting Soldiers,	210 00
School Land Rents,	56 57
From Town Farm,	41 84
Money drawn but not appropriated,	300 00
“ Borrowed of Sundry persons April 1863,	815 00
“ “ “ “ May “	685 00
“ “ “ “ Aug. “	800 00
“ “ “ “ Sept. “	508 25
“ “ “ “ Oct. “	400 00

Money borrowed of sundry persons, Nov. 1863,	7,250 00
“ “ “ “ Dec. “	1,450 00
“ “ “ “ Jan. 1864,	20,075 00
“ “ “ “ Feb. “	300 00
Bills of Taxes delivered Collector for 1863,	9,336 07

\$ 53,178 40

DISBURSEMENTS.

Or amount paid out of Treasury :

For repairing Highways and Bridges,	905 45
Schooling,	3477 55
Ringing Bells and Sexton's Services,	164 03
Support of Poor,	1533 15
Abatement of Taxes,	245 93
Building School Houses in District No. 17,	1250 00
Paying Debts of Town,	5146 20

\$12,722 33

Incidental Expenses.

B. Hapgood, nails and putty for Town House,	2 63
A. Burrill, work in Cemetery, &c.,	17 75
J. Weber, printing,	6 50
J. Proctor, lumber for Town House,	1 56
H. Dean, watering trough two years,	6 00
R. Pettee, “ “ one year	3 00
P. C. Freeman, Police Justice,	100 00
“ “ Rent Selectmen's Room,	25 00
W. E. Tutherly, Stamps and Stationery,	2 00
H. Breck, damages sustained on highway,	8 00
A. Burrill, work at Town Hall,	2 50
T. H. Dean, damages sustained on highway,	35 00
F. Whitcomb, watering trough,	3 00
A. F. Snow, legal advice,	4 00
Claremont Mfg Co., printing and stationery,	45 67
B. P. Gilman for Claremont Gas Co.,	121 28
W. P. Wheeler, legal advice,	3 00
R. W. Silsbee, making List of Soldiers,	4 00
H. W. Parker, legal advice.	2 50
Ann Canary, work in Selectmen's Room,	2 00
G. W. Merrifield, stationery, &c.,	20 34
L. J. Brooks, report of Soldiers' Aid to State,	7 50
Ira Colby, legal advice,	11 00
“ “ wood and lights,	8 00

E. W. Tolles, expenses to Concord and Lebanon on Soldiers account.	32 65
Wm. E. Tutherly, expenses and services as Recruiting Officer,	122 77
“ “ stamps,	2 60
“ “ sundry expenses out of Town,	24 53
C. M. Bingham for stamps,	2 00
T. R. Gowdy, for purchase of Liquors,	216 79
	<hr/> \$842 97

Cash paid Sumner Putnam, as Agent for Soldiers' Families.

April 6, 1863,	564 00	Oct. 6, 1863,	489 46
May 5, “	539 72	Nov. 6, “	471 32
June 6, “	547 47	Dec. 5, “	482 95
July 4, “	559 91	Jan'y 6, 1864,	471 59
Aug. 6, “	471 54	Feb'y 6, “	511 18
Sept. 5, “	443 99	March 3, “	4 26
			<hr/> \$5557 39

Bounties paid to Volunteers by Selectmen, agreeably to vote of Town, passed Dec. 7, 1863.

Levi D. Hall, Jr.,	702 00	Albert Parker,	702 00
David Latimouille,	702 00	Andrew J. Rickard,	580 00
Albert W. Brown,	702 00	George W. Fairbanks,	300 00
Hollis I. Brown,	702 00	Daniel J. Nevers,	300 00
Augustus E. Woodbury,	702 00	Charles D. Worcester,	300 00
William C. Severence,	702 00	Francis Rafferty;	300 00
James M. Cooper,	702 00		
Frank Bolio,	702 00		<hr/> \$ 8098 00

Bounties paid to Volunteers by Selectmen, agreeably to vote, passed Feb. 22, 1864.

Warren H. Gould,	300 00	John Miller,	570 00
Harvey S. Stone,	300 00	Horace Miller,	570 00
Elisha S. Sholes,	300 00	Thomas Doyley,	570 00
Eugene L. Leet,	150 00	Thomas Reily,	570 00
Joseph O. Hildreth,	570 00	George Adams,	570 00
George Brown,	570 00	Charles E Patrick,	300 00
George Snell,	570 00	John M. Southwick,	300 00
Reinhold Polity,	570 00	Charles S. Allen,	300 00
Christoph Stoll,	570 00	Robert H. Chase,	300 00
Charles Duffee,	570 00	David R. Roys,	300 00
William Horn,	570 00	Charles W. Leach,	300 00
Charles Johnson,	570 00		
			<hr/> \$10,260 00

Town Officers.

Fire Department.

Engine-men for services in 1862,	315 00
W. Cook, " for No. 3,	10 00
M. R. Emerson, " as chief engineer,	5 00
" for sundry bills paid,	56 16
J. M. Milton, " labor on No. 3 engine,	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$ 387 66

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Amount of money raised by law,	3188 00
Literary fund from State,	252 72
Rent of School Lands,	56 57
Rail Road Tax for 1858 and 1862,	95 26
	<hr/> 3592 55
Deduct for Sup. School Committee,	115 00
	<hr/> \$3477 55

Which is divided \$50 00 to each district, and the remainder by the scholar—which gives about \$2 33½ to each scholar:—

<i>District.</i>	<i>No. Scholars.</i>	<i>Am't.</i>	<i>District.</i>	<i>No. Scholars.</i>	<i>Am't.</i>
1	212	545 23	11	34	129 42
2	46	157 55	12	13	80 37
3	33	127 09	13	18	92 05
4	52	171 47	14	23	103 73
5	35	131 76	15	132	358 35
6	23	103 73	16	11	75 70
7	40	143 44	17	276	694 74
8	29	117 74	18	41	145 78
9	44	152 78	19	11	75 70
10	9	71 02			

TOWN FARM.

Cost of supporting the Poor :

Am't of property at Town Farm March, 1863,	2153 18
Am't due from County for support of Poor,	47 50
Paid Bradford Grimes' Salary,	300 00
“ by Selectmen to aid poor,	1233 15
Interest on valuation of farm,	120 00
Paid W. E. Tutherly, as overseer of Poor,	25 00
	<hr/> \$3878 83

Cr. as follows :

Am't received for County Paupers,	1238 81
Due from County,	104 35
Due for board of N. Jennison,	27 00
Over paid to B. Grimes, and returned,	41 84
Personal Property at Farm March, 1864,	2322 73
	<hr/> \$3734 73

Cost of supporting the Poor,	<hr/> \$144 10
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LIQUOR AGENT'S REPORT.

FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1864.

Amount of Liquors on hand, March 1, 1864,	645 53
Amount of Liquors on hand March 1, 1863,	255 57
Cash Rec'd from the Town,	216 79
	<hr/> \$472 36
Net gain to Town,	<hr/> \$173 17
Amount rec'd for sales of Liquors and Casks,	1362 32
" " from Town for Bal. Agt. Salary,	216 79
	<hr/> \$1579 11
Amount paid for Liquors and freight,	1329 11
" " " Agents Salary,	250 00
	<hr/> \$1579 11

LIABILITIES.

Am't due from the Town for money borrowed,	40284 84
Deduct am't due from County on Pauper account,	104 35
Balance in Treasury,	4371 70
Amount due from State for Soldier's Aid,	5557 39
Amount due from Government for Bounties advanced, which is now due for 22 men \$60 each,	1320 00
	<hr/> 11353 44
Indebtedness of the Town over and above the	
Cash Assets.	<hr/> \$28931 40

The Town have also advanced the sum of \$7524 00 for which am't they have the assignments of Soldiers' bounties—from which they have reason to expect to realize a considerable sum,—perhaps one third or one half of the whole amount.

E. L. GODDARD,
JAMES GOODWIN. } *Auditors.*

Chief Engineer's Report.

I have to report that no fire has occurred during the year—not an alarm even has been sounded. The services of the department consequently not having been called into requisition, we have had no practical illustration of its efficiency. I have every reason to believe, and do not hesitate to say, if called upon for duty, it would promptly report itself fully prepared for any emergency.

The usual requisite number of Firemen were appointed at the beginning of the year to operate Engines Nos. 3 and 4,—Companies were at once organized and the regular meetings have been held and fully attended. The machines and apparatus have been kept in good repair, and have been frequently tested with satisfactory results. I am assured by the Foremen that everything connected with the Engines is in complete order, and that they have nearly their full complement of men ready for duty at call.

The new couplings attached to the hose last year give perfect satisfaction—the saving of time in making connections and the fact that we can now use to good advantage our whole line of nearly 1500 feet of hose (which could not be done before), fully proves the change to have been a judicious one. Not having been able to obtain a satisfactory price for the old couplings displaced, they have not been disposed of.

No. 1 Engine is now supplied with buckets, and although the hose belonging to it is old and somewhat tender, is capable of rendering good service. There is no organized company attached to it, yet “little No. 1” is always on hand at a fire, and its claims for an occasional small appropriation for repairs should not be overlooked by those having this important interest in charge.

The failure to organize a Hook and Ladder Company is to be regretted; this arm of the service is of great importance, and will undoubtedly receive the attention it deserves.

The hydrant has been under the care of a competent Foreman during the year, and I need only say would render a good account of itself if called upon.

The Reservoirs are well supplied with water—most of them being nearly full. The one on Sullivan Street, somewhat damaged at the last fire, has been repaired.

The expenses of the department for the last year are as follows:

Am't paid for repairing Engines, Hose, &c.,	\$ 15.77
“ “ 2 Rubber Suits for use No. 4,	14.00
“ “ Stewards' bills and incidentals,	32.89
“ that will be due firemen April 1,	340.00

Whole am't for the year, \$ 402.66

The fact that no fire has occurred the year past should not induce us to slacken our efforts to be fully prepared, but we ought to be more vigilant, and ready to adopt all necessary measures for protection.

Respectfully submitted,

M. R. EMERSON,

Chief Engineer

REPORT

Of the Superintending School Committee of Claremont, 1863-4.

The Superintending Committee would respectfully submit the following Report :

The schools during the past year have been in a prosperous condition, and we are happy to be able to report some progress over the preceding year. The Prudential Committees have been generally fortunate in the selection of teachers. There has been no school during the year that could be pronounced a failure, while many of them have been of marked excellence. The examinations at the close of the several terms have, without exception, exhibited a commendable progress. There has never been a time, since the foundation of the government, when our Common School system was of more vital importance than at the present time. A republic can live only by the general virtue and intelligence of the people. It can have no permanence unless based upon that foundation. Our Common Schools have always been, and we trust always will be, the cherished institution of New England. They take our children, when the character is in its formative stage, and mold it permanently for good or evil. In this hour of national darkness, the hope of our country is in our educational system. We rejoice that we can report an increasing interest felt by the people of the town in the cause of education. This has been manifested by the number of visits made by citizens and others to schools during the year. These amount to 1150, a much larger number than during any previous year.— If you wish to excite in yourself an interest on the subject of education, you can do it in no better way than by visiting your schools. Let us be prompted to this, not only by the desire we feel as parents for the welfare of our children, but by the love we bear toward our country, for our national destiny lies unfolded, in its germ, in our Common Schools. It would serve greatly to improve our schools if each citizen of the district in which he lives would spend but a single day, both Summer and Winter, in this pleasant duty.

CONDITION OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

There are quite a number of schoolhouses that are an honor and an ornament to their respective districts. These have been erected or greatly repaired but a few years ago.— There are some others that are not suitable to be used for a day for the purpose for which they were erected. At the bottom of the scale of descending merit we place the school-houses in Nos. 4, 8, 10. Such unsightly buildings have a *demoralizing* influence upon the rising generation. The behavior of children, both in school and out, is affected by them. Were our school-rooms as neat and in as good taste as our sitting-rooms and parlors, it would go far towards constraining our children to act with the same propriety and good manners in and around the school-house that they do in company at home.— Could the school-room be rendered attractive instead of repulsive in its appearance, it would greatly assist the progress of the pupils in their studies and afford some check to that recklessness and depravation of manners sometimes witnessed in the youth of our land. The cultivation of a correct taste, and a sense of the beautiful, has its influence upon good morals.

TEACHERS AND CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

No. 1. The Primary department was taught for the three terms by Miss Jennie M. Jones, and her school may be truthfully pronounced a complete success. She exhibited a peculiar adaptedness to instruct that class of scholars, and under her efficient management the school made a good degree of proficiency in all the branches taught.

The Intermediate department has been under the charge of Mrs. Sophronia Webster. This has been in every respect a superior school. It has been in all its influences what a school ought to be. Mrs. Webster has had long experience in the art of teaching, and has established her reputation as a successful instructor of youth. The examination at the close of the winter term would have done honor to any school in the State. She exhibited a deep interest in the moral as well as intellectual culture of her pupils. In reading, it was a fixed rule to read no more than could be done well. Constant attention was paid to the definition of words, and the scholars were thoroughly trained to a correct pronunciation. Some fine specimens of map drawing were exhibited. Instruction was given in Calisthenics, and also in singing. We do not hesitate to pronounce this school one of the best we have ever visited in any town or state.

The Grammar School was taught during the summer and fall terms by Miss Stella S. Elmer, of Brattleboro, Vt. She showed herself, during the two terms the school was under her management, to be an efficient and accomplished teacher. The winter term was taught by Mr. Jos. D. Weeks. The instruction was thorough and accurate, perfect

order was maintained, and the progress of the school in all the different branches was marked. The teacher was active and energetic, and well adapted both to teach and to govern.

No. 2. This school was taught in the summer by Miss Martha M. Patterson. She has had many years experience in teaching, and is in every respect a good teacher, and the examination at the close of the term indicated that her thorough instruction had contributed to the advancement of her scholars. The winter term was taught by Mr. S. M. Babcock. So far as his scientific attainments are concerned, he is amply qualified to teach any school in town. But owing to a combination of circumstances, his term of service was not as profitable as could have been desired. The grand defect of the school was an almost total absence of order, the teacher lacking that strength of will which is necessary to control other minds. But notwithstanding all the unfavorable influences that were at work, and the failure of the teacher in his government, the school at its examination manifested a fair degree of progress in most of the studies pursued.

No. 3. The teacher of this school in the summer was Miss Ellen S. Hayden. She was laborious and untiring in her efforts to impart instruction, and the progress of the school showed that her faithful labors were not lost. The winter term was successfully taught by Mr. S. T. Smith. The scholars were punctual in their attendance, good order was maintained, and the instruction was thorough in all the different branches. Though the school was somewhat backward, their progress was honorable both to themselves and their teacher.

No. 4. This school in the summer, was under the instruction of Miss Mary A. Tyler. This was her first school, and she has made a very promising beginning in the art of teaching. The school was still, orderly, and made progress during the term. In the winter the Prudential Committee was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W. B. T. Smith. The school was brought into perfect subjection, and there was almost a total absence of whispering. The register exhibits as great punctuality in the attendance of the scholars as any school in town. We noticed with pleasure in this school the practice of spelling by means of the elementary sounds. In every respect this was a good school.

No. 5. This school was taught in the summer by Miss Isabella L. Putnam, of Cornish. Her school was a decided success, and would compare favorably with our best schools in New England. Very marked progress was made in reading. During the fall and winter terms it engaged the instruction of Miss Lucy L. Hall, who has taught for several years, and who is one of our best instructors. Under her management there was no falling off in the progress of the scholars.

No. 6. This is a small school—only 9 scholars in the summer, and in the winter 16. In the summer it was taught by Miss Maria A. Barker. In the winter it was under the charge of Miss Mary Jane Sanborn, who gives promise of becoming one of our best teachers. We were much pleased with the school and saw no necessity of suggesting any alterations in the method of teaching or the government of the scholars.

No. 7. This school was taught in the summer, to the entire satisfaction of the district, by Miss M. L. Clement. We noticed especially a good class in mental arithmetic. The school was orderly, quiet, and attentive to their studies. The teacher for the winter term was Mr. G. P. Rossiter. The school was well governed, and the method of the instruction was good. The teacher labored hard, and the scholars, at the closing examination, appeared to good advantage. In Arithmetic especially, the classes seemed to have a thorough drilling.

No. 8. The summer term was taught by Miss Frank M. Bailey. This is a small school with only twelve scholars in the summer and fourteen in the winter. The teacher for the winter school was Mr. George W. Hubbard, whose labors were attended with a fair degree of success.

No. 9. In this district there have been three terms. The summer school was taught by Miss Susan B. Carlton. The teacher exhibited a good degree of energy, manifested an interest in the welfare of her scholars, and her efforts for the advancement of her pupils were attended with success. We witnessed here a good exercise upon the Outline Maps. The fall and winter terms were under the instruction of Miss Helen Dean, one of our most successful teachers. The school under her efficient management was brought into an excellent state of discipline, and the scholars were thoroughly drilled in their studies. It was not the aim of the teacher to go over the greatest number of pages in a text-book, but to bring the mind of the pupil to a thorough understanding of the science. The examination at the close of the school was highly satisfactory.

No. 10. This was a small school composed mostly of large scholars. It was taught in the summer by Miss Mary E. Stowell, and in the winter by Miss Louisa C. Dorr. The teachers were both competent and faithful, and we can report favorably in respect to the general good order, and improvement of the scholars.

No. 11. This school was taught for the three terms by Miss Lizzie L. Sargent. We found here a good school. It was a fixed principle of the teacher to proceed thoroughly rather than rapidly. Good order was maintained, and each succeeding term witnessed an improvement in the school over the preceding. Much more would have been

accomplished had it not been for the irregularity in the attendance of the scholars, owing in part to sickness. This was in no way the fault of the teacher, who is commended as a valuable instructor.

No. 12. In the summer term this school was taught by Miss Martha L. Wightman. It was her first term, and her complete success is prophetic of future eminence in the art of teaching. It was among the most satisfactory of the summer schools. During the winter term Miss L. M. Way was employed, who succeeded admirably in taking the school where it was left by her predecessor and elevating it to a still higher degree of merit. We found here a neat and convenient school-house, which is an ornament to this mountain region, situated amid the most beautiful scenery in New England, and a school that was a perfect success.

No. 13. This school has been in session only one term—there having been no school in the summer. It was taught by Mr. George H. Dean, of Weathersfield, Vt. There were only twelve scholars, mostly large. The teacher labored with energy and success, and the school at its close exhibited a commendable progress.

No. 14. The summer school in this district was taught by Miss Mary Jane Sanborn, and with complete success. The instruction was thorough, the government efficient, and the progress of the scholars marked. Miss Sanborn is a young teacher of great promise. The winter school was taught by Mr. F. D. Nevens, of Cornish, who discharged all the duties of a teacher faithfully, and with a fair degree of success.

No. 15. The primary department of this school for the three terms has been taught by Miss Paulina L. Grow. It is not too much to say of this school that it was one of the best that we have ever seen. But few teachers can be found better adapted in all respects to the instruction of that class of scholars. She has in her mental structure all those peculiar qualities necessary to complete success. The fact that this is the second year she has taught in this department of the school, shows the value that is placed upon her labors by the district. Teachers who succeed in other departments often find themselves poorly adapted to a primary school. Her scholars are bound to her by the strongest affection, and it is needless to say, have made most rapid progress. It is to be hoped that her services will long be retained by the town, for we cannot afford to spare that class of teachers. They are a valuable treasure to any community.

The grammar school was taught in the summer and fall by Miss Marietta Colby. We found here, in almost every respect, a *model school*. The teacher has an excellent faculty both of governing and imparting instruction. Her school, in all its movements, seemed to be regulated by the nicest machinery. The classes came to their recitations without confusion or noise, and went out at recess with the perfect order of a military drill. Under such a training the classes could not fail to make a fine appearance at the examination. Both terms were an eminent success. The winter school was taught by Mr. J. C. Gilson, a young man of fine scientific culture and scholarly habits. His instruction was thorough and accurate, and the school under the influence of his faithful labors made a very perceptible progress, and appeared well at the examination. A deficiency of order subtracted much from the results that would otherwise have been reached.

No. 16. In this district there was no school in summer, but instead of it a long term in winter taught by Miss Alice Deane. The scholars were nearly all large, and the school was quiet, orderly, and studious. It was in no respect a failure, but in every department of study was eminently successful, and worthy of much praise.

No. 18. This school was taught for fifteen weeks in the summer by Miss Ellen M. Bond, to the entire satisfaction of the district. Her school was one of more than average merit, and her success, though not as marked as in some others, was quite commendable.

The winter school was under the charge of Mr. P. Caldwell. He had some peculiarities in his mental traits, but he showed himself to be an able scholar, and an energetic and useful teacher. He was not satisfied unless the scholar fully understood the reason of every process. Among much that was excellent we noticed, in the examination, three classes in Geography which we considered the best of any in town. The classes had made much proficiency in map-drawing—a practice which cannot be too highly commended, and which we should be glad to see introduced into every school in town. The progress of the school was manifest.

No. 19. This district had no school in the summer. The Winter term was taught by Miss Matilda E. Higbee, with profit to the school, and to the satisfaction of the district.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. We noticed in most of the schools the past year, an evil connected with the instruction in Reading. Too many pages are read at a time. No more surface should be read over than can be read well, even if a class does not complete more than half of the book during the term. Scholars, also, are seldom sufficiently drilled in the introductory exercises in the reading book. It is not enough to commit those rules to memory: the pupil must be exercised on them until he can apply them anywhere.

2. In Spelling, we recommend one exercise each day, in writing either on the slate or blackboard. This applies of course only to the more advanced classes. The English

Language is so irregular in its Orthography, that spelling will require much attention in our schools—more, we are afraid, than it receives. An occasional exercise in spelling by means of the elementary sounds, will be found both interesting and profitable. The proper time for acquiring the definition of words is while reading.

3. Small scholars should not be confined too closely to the school room. Let them go frequently out and exercise in the open air. They will learn the better for it. At this tender age, the brain should not be overworked, at the expense of the rest of the organism. Four hours per day is quite enough for small scholars to be in the school room.

4. There is a sad deficiency of *ventilation* in our school-rooms. Some school-houses have no means of supplying the rooms with fresh air, nor even letting the windows down from above. Nothing is more essential to sound health and physical enjoyment than pure air. It is necessary to vitalize and purify the blood. At every pulsation about two ounces of blood are sent from the heart to the lungs for that purpose. The atmosphere of the school-room, loaded with noxious effluvia, and containing an excess of carbon and deficient in *oxygen*, is wholly unfit to give vitality to the blood. The result is the scholars are dull and lifeless, subject to headaches, colds, and various diseases. The seeds of disease are there sown, which spring up in the future into a dire harvest. A healthy pair of lungs, when the scholar is in a state of repose, or not in violent action, will inhale with every breath, at least one pint of air, making eighteen pints every minute. A little cyphering will show that every person in the room will need for his healthy existence fifteen hogsheads of pure air during the six hours he sits in school. A school of 50 scholars will need every day, 750 hogsheads of air. In some of our school-houses all the air fit for respiration (if there is any such air in the house) is used up the first half hour. The only wonder is that our children are able to go through one single term. It is not astonishing that teachers generally close their schools with diminished health. Bad air in a school-room not only operates unfavorably upon the health of the teacher and pupils, but blunts the mental faculties, by its effect upon the blood and brain, and thus checks the intellectual growth of our children. There is as pure air on our hills and around our mountains as there is anywhere on the globe. It is also free for all. God has furnished it in rich abundance, without money and without price. What a pity that our scholars should suffer for the want of it! Let the districts see to it that their scholars do not lack a supply of this necessary element. Let the school-house be thoroughly ventilated, even if it requires double the amount of fuel.

5. One of the most pleasing features of several of the schools the past year, has been the practice of singing, the importance of which, we are confident, cannot be over-estimated. It is a most healthful exercise:—prepares the mind of the pupil for severer studies; soothes all excited passions; exorcises all angry feelings, and contributes vastly to the enjoyment and good government of the scholars. In the selection of teachers, preference should be given to those who can give instruction in this delightful art, provided they are otherwise equally well qualified. We wish the practice might be introduced into all the schools in town.

6. We would urge upon the attention of parents and guardians the importance of combining their influence with that of teachers in their respective localities, in securing order in our schools. Without order no progress can be made. The want of it has a demoralizing effect upon an otherwise good school. Give the teacher to understand that you expect he will maintain perfect order in the school room. Lend him the whole weight of your influence to accomplish this. Invest him, if need be, with your own parental authority, and sustain him in the use of it, and only complain of the palpable abuse of it. Never was there a time when this was more needful, than during these unhappy times. There is a tendency in the mind of the age to break away from all healthful restraint. If this is not checked among the youth of the land, society is in danger of falling into a moral chaos.

7. We highly approve of the employment of female teachers in the winter schools, especially those who have had experience in teaching. There is something in the structure of the female mind, that renders them eminently adapted to the office of teaching.—They are in their native element when employed in the instruction of youth. Many young men engage in the employment from the pressure of their pecuniary circumstances, while pursuing a course of study, without any love for the work, or inward adaptation to it.—Its duties are performed as a task. The best order has been secured the past winter in those schools which have been under the charge of female teachers. But only those should be employed who are of established reputation. One of the great wants of our educational system is a class of persons, male and female, inwardly adapted to teaching, who shall make that office their profession, and whose precious mental training shall be in reference to that work. This undoubtedly the future will bring forth.

8. In the selection of teachers by Prudential Committees, preference should not be given to the cheapest merely because they are cheap. Never throw away your money on cheap teachers; no district in town can afford it. A good school, eight weeks long, is far preferable to a poor school six months in length. The school had better be lengthened by voluntary subscription if it be necessary, rather than to waste the public money in the employment of cheap teachers.

9. With regard to neatness in the school room, a remark may be necessary. We consider the degree of neatness in a school-room as a fair index to the character of the school. In some of the schools we visited we observed a due attention to this important matter;

the floor was not strewn with bits of paper and apple cores. This is worthy of all praise. The teacher should cultivate a habit of neatness in the pupil.

10. Much valuable time is sometimes lost in school by the tardiness of the scholars.—To prevent this let the teacher set an example of punctuality worthy of imitation; let him endeavor to excite an interest in the scholars in regard to their studies; let the school room be made comfortable and attractive; and let parents be careful that their children are ready for school in proper season. We have noticed with pleasure the names of some scholars on the registers who have been present every day of the term, and without one mark of tardiness. That promises well as to their future character and success in life. A habit of punctuality—of never being behind time—is a valuable attainment, and well worth cultivating. It has an important influence in shaping the moral character of the scholar, and is necessary to the highest success in any profession or employment in life. The following are the names of the scholars, so far as we have been able to collect them from the Registers, who have attended school for an entire term without being absent or tardy:—

Minnie Partridge, Estelle G. Henry, Ada F. Knights, Bell E. Gowdey, Nellie L. Knights, Katie H. Deane, Emma J. Robinson, Hattie L. Rand, Nellie Way, Mary E. Burrill, Maria L. Blake, Henry G. Blake, Henry A. Cossitt, Elwyn C. Peabody, Julia Grimes, Emma Grimes, Sidney Cone, Mary E. Whitecomb, Eddie Wolcott, Carrie McLaughlin, Willie Drury, Sarah Morrill, Lyman S. Dunsmoor, Herman Shedd, Gardner Hammond, Arthur Shedd, Sebastian Norrington, John Short, Mary C. Chase, Sarah M. Moore, Julia A. Short, Jennie J. Simonds, Jennie M. Barker, Sarah Bunnell, Clara F. Bunnell, Abbie E. Reed, Fremont Emerson, Ada L. Emerson, Charles F. Parker, Willis Morse, Mabel F. Ross, Nellie C. Shepardson, Mary E. Shepardson, Ida A. Walker, Horace A. Baker, Mary E. Blanchard, Emily L. Osgood.

The following have been two terms without being absent or tardy:

Clara L. Farwell, Mary F. Putnam. Loren Webster was neither absent or tardy for three terms.

W. F. EVANS,

Superintending Committee.

REPORT

Of the Superintending School Committee of District No. 17.

[UNDER THE SOMERSWORTH ACT.]

FELLOW CITIZENS,—The School property in this District is in excellent condition.—There are four good school-rooms, some of them as good as any in the State, kept in excellent condition by our model prudential committee, Mr. Briggs, who has devoted much attention to the schools for the last two years, and that attention has done much to keep the school buildings from injury.

Each room is furnished with a Clock and Globe. The Grammar school room is furnished with a good set of Pelton's Maps,—the Terrace school-house with a map of the U. S. and some outline maps. The Intermediate school-room and the Pearl St. school-house each needs a U. S. Map, also a map of the State and County; and all the schools would be greatly benefitted by Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, kept on the teacher's desk for reference.

We have had four schools, kept thirty weeks each, during the year, attended by 186 different scholars. The daily average attendance has been 112. During the summer term the whole number of scholars who attended two weeks or more was 129. Fall term 143. Winter term 150.

PEARL STREET SCHOOL.

The Primary School, on Pearl St. was taught, during the Summer term, by Miss A. E. Bliss, under whose instruction it has been for two or three years, with her usual ability and success. During the Fall and Winter term, it was taught by Miss M. L. Wightman of this town. She is a new teacher in this district, but gave entire satisfaction, so far as I know, to scholars, parents and Committee.

TERRACE SCHOOL.

The Primary school on the Terrace was taught in the Summer and Fall Terms by the veteran teacher, Miss M. E. Dimond, with her usual success. She is a most thorough teacher, and one of the few who can keep up the same untiring interest in her scholars and awaken the same interest in their minds, in their studies, and in her, year after year. The freshness never wears off. Her health failed, and the school was taught during the winter term by Miss M. S. Moore of this town. She is a teacher of excellent qualifications, and gave entire satisfaction to the scholars, parents, and Committee, so far as I know.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

This school was taught during the Summer term by Miss E. S. Wightman, of this town. The school had not been in a good way as to its deportment out doors or in the house. It is perhaps the most difficult school to govern, as some of its scholars are old enough to be in the Grammar school, and backward enough to be in the Primary school, and it was not a full success, though the teacher did what she could.

The school was taught during the Fall and Winter terms by Miss A. E. Bliss. Very soon it showed signs of order and decorum that were really refreshing—decorum out of doors and in the school-room. The school at its close exhibited excellent order and gratifying progress in study. Its recitations in Geography were excellent. In Arithmetic it is not very forward.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This school was under the instruction of Miss M. A. Vaughan, of Taftsville, Vt., during the Summer Term. She has taught the school and the Intermediate school before, with fidelity and success. She brought to her work this term equal devotion, but her labor was not attended with equal pleasure to herself or to the school.

During the Fall term the school was under the instruction of Miss S. G. Roberts of Meriden. She came well recommended, and was a teacher of experience, but she was of too gentle a nature to govern this school, and her labors were not attended with the highest success.

In winter it was under the instruction of Mr. O. B. Way, of this town. The school has been characterized during the term with unusual wakefulness and earnestness on the part of its members. Pleasant good order has prevailed in doors and out, and excellent progress in study has been the result.

All our schools this winter have been in good working order, and very successful.—They have been satisfactory to all the parties concerned, with very few exceptions.

\$694.74 have been appropriated to the schools in this district.

186 scholars have enjoyed the privileges of the school for two weeks or more during the year, giving to each \$3.73. 276 is the number of scholars, this gives 2.51 to each.

Respectfully submitted,

O. AYER,

Superintending School Committee of District No. 17.

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